UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.237/L.14/Add.1*/
8 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Fifth session, second part
New York, 30 April - 8 May 1992
Agenda item 3

COMPLETION OF A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Draft proposed by the Chairman

Addendum 1

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Convention:

1. **"Adverse effects of climate change"** means changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operations of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare.

2. **"Climate change"** means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

3. **"Climate system"** means the totality of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and geosphere and their interactions.

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*/ This revision contains material relevant to Article 1, prepared in the light of informal consultations conducted by Mr. Maciej Sadowski, Vice-Chairman of Working Group II, and further reviewed in the informal consultations on legal and linguistic editing conducted by Vice-Chairman Raúl Estrada-Oyuela.

4. "**Emissions**" means the release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.

5. "**Greenhouse gases**" means those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation.

6. "**Regional economic integration organization**" means an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region which has competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention or its protocols and has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the instruments concerned.

7. "**Reservoir**" means a component or components of the climate system where a greenhouse gas or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored.

8. "**Sink**" means any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

9. "**Source**" means any process or activity which releases a greenhouse gas, aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.